

Message Text

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TAGS: ELTN, ETRN, OVIP (SULLIVAN , JOHN M.), UR, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY DOT'S FEDERAL RAILROAD

ADMINISTRATOR JOHN SULLIVAN

REF: (A) STATE 80149, (B) MOSCOW 6243

1. ON APRIL 10 SCICOUNS DISCUSSED PROPOSED VISIT TO USSR BY FRA ADMINISTRATOR JOHN SULLIVAN WITH L. I. MALASHKO, MINRAIL, PER REF A, NOTING THAT G. M. KARENKO, DIRECTOR OF MOTIVE POWER DIRECTORATE, MINRAIL, HAD EXTENDED AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO SULLIVAN IN JULY 1977. MALASHKO RESPONDED THAT MINRAIL OF COURSE WELCOMED VISIT BY FRA ADMINISTRATOR BUT SUGGESTED THAT SULLIVAN CONSIDER DELAYING HIS VISIT UNTIL LATER FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- MOST OF THE SOVIET SPECIALISTS WHOM SULLIVAN WISHES TO SEE, INCLUDING HIS OFFICIAL HOST, KARNEKO, WILL BE "UNAVAILABLE" DURING THE MAY 8 - 13/14 PERIOD PROPOSED FOR THIS VISIT, AND

- MINRAIL IS ALREADY SORELY TAXED BY PREPARATIONS FOR SCHEDULED VISITS OF US TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE (05.01 - MAY 15-25) AND RAILWAY TRANSPORT (05.03 - MAY 28 - JUNE 10) DELEGATIONS.

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2. MALASHKO SUGGESTED THAT SULLIVAN MIGHT WISH TO ACCOMPANY ABOVE NOTED RAIL TRANSPORT (05.03) DELEGATION IN VIEW OF HIS PRESENT ROLE AND INTERESTS. MALASHKO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PROGRAM FOR THIS USDEL WOULD ONLY INCLUDE A FEW OF THE FACILITIES SULLIVAN HAS INDICATED (PARA 2B, 2C AND 2D, REF A). FYI. USDEL'S MAIN FOCUS WILL BE ON

LOCOMOTIVE CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR. MINRAIL IS ARRANGING A PROGRAM CENTERED ON VISITS TO SUCH FACILITIES. END FYI. MALASHKO ALSO COMMENTED THAT MINRAIL COULD EASILY MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SULLIVAN HIMSELF TO JOIN USDEL BUT COULD NOT REPEAT NOT ACCOMMODATE HIS PARTY OF AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT PEOPLE BECAUSE, MALASHKO CLAIMED, OF THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING THE ADDITIONAL HOTEL ROOMS.

3. MALASHKO COMMENTED THAT THE BEST RECOURSE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE TO DELAY THE VISIT. MINRAIL CANNOT CONVENIENTLY RECEIVE SULLIVAN BEFORE OCTOBER WHICH IS NOT A PARTICULARLY GOOD TIME TO SEE SOVIET RAIL OPERATIONS BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER. MALASHKO SUGGESTED THAT SULLIVAN WOULD BE BEST ADVISED TO CONSIDER A SEPARATE VISIT IN MAY, 1979.

4. COMMENT. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT MINRAIL WOULD PREFER TO PUT OFF SULLIVAN'S VISIT TO NEXT YEAR WHEN THE SOVIETS COULD MAKE THE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS TO HOST HIM. ONLY APPARENT ALTERNATIVE SEEMS TO BE FOR SULLIVAN TO JOIN TRANSPORT DELEGATION MAY 28-JUNE 10, BUT THIS WOULD RESULT IN LESS THAN IDEAL PROGRAM, AND WOULD MAKE TRAVEL OF OTHER MEMBERS OF SULLIVAN'S PARTY IMPOSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE. TOON

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